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In the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method of continuously punching an array of closely-spaced holes in a deformable strip in a rotary punch which comprises feeding said deformable strip between a female rotary die having a cylindrical periphery with a plurality of spaced recesses formed on the cylindrical periphery and a male/female rotary die having a cylindrical periphery with a plurality of alternating spaced punches and recesses formed on the cylindrical periphery for mating of said punches of the male/female rotary die with corresponding said recesses of the female die, rotating said female and male/female dies concurrently for punching a first set of spaced holes in the deformable strip along the deformable strip, feeding said punched deformable strip between said male/female rotary die and a male rotary die having a cylindrical periphery with a plurality of spaced punches formed on the cylindrical perimeter for mating of said punches of the male rotary die with corresponding said recesses of the male/female rotary die, and rotating said male/female die concurrently with the male die for punching a second set of holes in the strip between the first set of spaced holes along the deformable strip.

Claim 2 (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, continuously ejecting punched material from the female rotary die and the male/female rotary die.

Claim 3 (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, in which the recesses formed on the female rotary die, the alternating punches and recesses formed on the male/female rotary die, and the punches formed on the male die are variably spaced along the strip and/or across the strip, or staggered across the strip.

Claim 4 (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, in which the recesses formed on the female rotary die, the alternating punches and recesses formed on the male/female rotary die, and the punches formed on the male die are equispaced.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A method of continuously punching an array of closely-spaced holes in a deformable strip in a rotary punch which comprises feeding said deformable strip between a female rotary die having a cylindrical periphery with a plurality

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of spaced recesses formed on the cylindrical periphery and a male/female rotary die having a cylindrical periphery with a plurality of alternating spaced punches and recesses formed on the cylindrical periphery for mating of said punches of the male/female rotary die with corresponding said recesses of the female die, rotating said female and male/female dies concurrently for punching a first set of spaced holes in the deformable strip transversely of the deformable strip along the deformable strip, feeding said punched deformable strip between said male/female rotary die and a male rotary die having a cylindrical periphery with a plurality of spaced punches formed on the cylindrical perimeter for mating of said punches of the male rotary die with corresponding said recesses of the male/female rotary die, and rotating said male/female die concurrently with the male die for punching a second set of holes in the strip transversely of the deformable strip between the first set of spaced holes along the deformable strip.

Claim 6 (original) A method as claimed in claim 5, continuously ejecting punched material from the female rotary die and the male/female rotary die.

Claim 7 (original) A method as claimed in claim 6, in which the recesses formed on the female rotary die, the alternating punches and recesses formed on the male/female rotary die, and the punches formed on the male die are variably spaced along the strip and/or across the strip, or staggered across the strip.

Claim 8 (original) A method as claimed in claim 5, in which the recesses formed on the female rotary die, the alternating punches and recesses on the male/female rotary die, and the punches on the male die are equispaced.

Claim 9 (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, mounting a plurality of angular segments continuously about an annulus formed in each of the cylindrical female die and the cylindrical male/female die in proximity to the perimeter of the respective cylindrical dies, each angular segment having at least one ejector pin for radial reciprocal travel in a die recess, and moving the angular segments radially outwardly at a selected angle of rotation of the cylindrical female die and of the cylindrical male/female

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die for continuously ejecting punch-out material from the die recesses.

Claim 10 (original) A method as claimed in claim 9, providing a plurality of cam rollers extending loosely across each of the cylindrical female die and the cylindrical male/female die, each cam roller passing through an angular segment for moving said angular segment radially inwardly and outwardly in the die annulus for reciprocal radial movement of a die ejector pin in a die recess, and moving the cam rollers and associated angular segments outwardly at a selected angle of rotation of each of the dies whereby the angular segment ejector pins eject punch-out material from the cylindrical dies at the selected angles of rotation.

Claim 11 (original) A method as claimed in claim 10, mounting opposite ends of the cam rollers in opposed stationary cam raceways formed on each side of each cylindrical die for controllably moving the cam rollers radially inwardly and outwardly as the dies rotate.

Claim 12 (original) A method as claimed in claim 11, in which the recesses formed on the female rotary die, the alternating punches and recesses formed on the male/female rotary die, and the punches formed on the male die are variably spaced along the strip and/or across the strip, or staggered across the strip.

Claim 13 (original) A method as claimed in claim 11, in which the recess formed on the female rotary die and on the male/female rotary die are equispaced.

Claim 14 (original) A method as claimed in claim 9, in which the deformable strip is selected from the group of strips consisting of lead, lead alloys, aluminum, brass, copper, steel, zinc, plastics, vinyl and cardboard.

Claim 15 (original) A method as claimed in claim 9, in which the deformable strip is lead or lead alloy.

Claims 16 – 31 (cancelled)